(c) The gap between demand and indigenous production of fertilizers is met through imports.

(d) A major programme has been undertaken to increase the production of fertilizers in the country. As a part of this programme, many new fertili zer plants have been taken on hand, to substantially add to the fertilizer capacity already under installation. These measures would help augment the indigenous production of ferti lizers considerably.

Survey and Investigation in storage reservoir sites by the National Water Development Agency

1370. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the Minister* of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Wate!r Development Agency bad recently undertaken any surveys and investigations in storage reservoir sites;

(b) whether the surveys have been completed;

(c) whether scheme of linking of Ganga and Cauvery has been abandoned; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The surveys are in progress.

(c) and (d) The proposal linking Ganga-Cauvery was found to be uneconomical and was, therefore, not pursued.

Distribution of foodgrains at subsidised rates under the Rural Employment Programme

1371. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that additional quantity of one million tonne of foodgrains has been allocated for distribution at subsidised rates as part of payment of wages under the Rural Employment Programme;

(b) whether the workers would have the option of taking any quantity of wheat according to their need;

(c) whether earlier each worker was allowed the maximum of one kilogram per day at the subsidised rates; and

(d) if so, to what extent this measure would benefit the rural poor while providing an outlay for the surplus grain?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At least 40 per cent of the wages of workers are required to be paid compulsorily in foodgrains.

(c) Earlier minimum of one kg. Per manday of foodgrains were distributed to the workers at subsidized rates.

(d) More foodgrains at cheaper rates would enhance the real wages of the workers and ensure better nutrition.

1391. [Transferred to the 9th December 1985].